

2013 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAY 1, 2013



This year, the Washington State Department of Agriculture worked collaboratively with industry representatives and other agencies to encourage the successful passage of bills affecting WSDA.

With the ending of the 2013 regular legislative session, below is the list of bills passed by state lawmakers where WSDA is the lead implementing agency for the bill or a specific provision of the bill. A link to the Legislature's website is provided for each bill where the history of the bill and related documents are available.

Following the list of bills is a summary of the budgets relative to WSDA that will be discussed in Special Session as the Legislature and Governor Inslee work to adopt a final biennial budget.

HOUSE BILLS:

SHB [1200](#), Seafood Labeling

Effective date TBD

- Creates a system for the unlawful misbranding of food fish or shellfish.
- Provides enforcement authority to WSDA, in consultation with WDFW, for labeling and misbranding violations.
- Establishes and clarifies definitions and common names for seafood.

HB [1209](#), Christmas Tree Growers Licensure

Effective July 28, 2013

- Extends the WSDA Christmas tree program and grower licensure to July 1, 2020.

HB [1770](#), Appointments of Nonvoting Advisory Members to Commodity Boards

Effective July 28, 2013

- Allows commodity boards created by marketing orders under RCW 15.65 to appoint up to two nonvoting advisory members to the board.
- Nonvoting advisory members do not count toward establishing a quorum of the board, but they are compensated the same as board members.

SHB [1886](#), Animal Health Documents Cost Recovery

Effective July 28, 2013

- Allows WSDA to recover reasonable costs associated with data entry and processing of animal health documents.

SHB [1889](#), Fruit and Vegetable District Fund

Effective June 30, 2013

- Transfers \$150,000 from the WSDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Account to the WSDA Plant Pest Account for the purpose of funding activities related to the control of *Rhagoletis pomonella* (apple maggots) in district two.

SENATE BILLS:

SB [5139](#), Milk and Milk Products

Effective July 28, 2013

- Brings the state into compliance with current U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations for the shipment of milk and milk products to our export partners under the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.
- Provides WSDA with additional enforcement authority when a producer or processor fails to meet the established safe food quality standards.

- Gives WSDA additional flexibility when working with producers and processors that are cooperative with quality standards and those that are chronic violators.

SSB 5767, Inspection of Dairy Cattle

Effective date TBD

- Enhances instate cattle movement information in support of animal disease traceability efforts.
- Upon request, requires WSDA to issue an official individual identification tag (green tag) for certain classes of calves under 30 days of age.
- Exempts calves with “green tags” from livestock inspection requirements under RCW 16.57 when criterion is met.
- Repeals the law which allowed sellers of impounded dairy breed cattle to receive sale proceeds without providing proof of ownership.

SENATE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET: [HTTP://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP](http://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP)

- Projects a total **Operating Budget** of \$152 million.
- **Administrative reductions:** (-\$916,000) Reduces general fund-state to reflect administrative efficiencies and other actions that agencies will take to lower costs.
- **Domestic Marketing:** (+\$250,000) Adds funding to support the Farm-to-School and the Small Farms and Direct Marketing programs (General Fund-State).
- **Animal Disease Traceability:** (+\$275,000) Adds funding for the implementation of the animal disease traceability program (Agricultural Local Fund-Non Appropriated).
- **Agricultural Fairs:** Maintains state funding for county, area, and youth fairs at \$4 million for the biennium (Fair Account-Non Appropriated).
- **Employee compensation:** Restores the three percent pay reduction for all state employees earning more than \$2,500 per month and provides for a new “Step M” for classified employees who have been at their top step for at least six years (General Fund-State and other).

The proposed **Senate Capital Budget** includes \$881,000 to support animal disease traceability activities.

HOUSE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET: [HTTP://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP](http://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP)

- Projects a total **Operating Budget** of \$154 million.
- **Agricultural Fairs:** Maintains state funding for county, area, and youth fairs at \$4 million for the biennium (Fair Account-Non Appropriated).
- **Domestic Marketing:** (+\$250,000) Adds funding to support the Farm-to-School and the Small Farms and Direct Marketing programs (General Fund-State).
- **Employee compensation:** Restores the three percent pay reduction for all state employees earning more than \$2,500 per month and provides for a new “Step M” for classified employees who have been at their top step for at least six years (General Fund-State and other).

The proposed **House Capital Budget** includes \$1 million for health and safety projects at county fairs and \$866,000 to support animal disease traceability activities.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET: [HTTP://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP](http://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP)

The **Transportation Budget (ESSB 5024)** was passed by both houses on April 28, 2013 and has been delivered to the Governor for signature. The budget includes \$1.2 million in continued funding for WSDA’s Motor Fuel Quality program, from the Motor Vehicle Account.

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